

EPI Update for Friday, July 20, 2012
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Reuse of single-dose/single-use vials and syringes/needles**
- **Educational materials still available at no cost**
- **Comments on the inclusion of occupation information in electronic health records**
- **IDPH staff changes**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Reuse of single-dose/single-use vials and syringes/needles

The CDC recently reported *Staphylococcus aureus* infections resulting from unsafe injection practices in outpatient facilities in Arizona and Delaware. In both facilities, practitioners used medication on multiple patients from vials labeled for single use, causing severe infections and hospitalizations for 10 patients. Since injection safety was included as part of Standard Precautions in 2007, at least 20 outbreaks associated with use of single-dose or single-use medications for more than one patient have occurred. To view the entire CDC report, visit

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6127a1.htm?s_cid=mm6127a1_w .

It was also recently reported that for nearly 12 years, an oral surgeon from Colorado reused syringes and needles on patients receiving intravenous medications. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has sent letters to 8,000 former patients seen from 2005 to 2011, advising them to be tested for HIV and hepatitis. Patients may have been exposed as far back as 1999, but no records are available for patient notification. For additional information, visit

www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Epidemiology/dentistFAQs.pdf.

The One & Only Campaign helps spread the word about safe practices related to single-dose/single-use vials. For more information, visit

www.oneandonlycampaign.org/content/healthcare-provider-toolkit.

A short injection check list is available for healthcare providers to evaluate their practices at www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/PDF/SIPC_Checklist.pdf.

Educational materials still available at no cost

The Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center (ISAIC) clearinghouse continues to distribute posters, brochures, etc. produced by several IDPH programs. Materials that relate to infectious disease epidemiology, environmental health, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), hepatitis, immunization, tobacco use prevention, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition program are available. The materials and shipping are at no charge to you.

For information on available materials and ordering from the clearinghouse, visit www.drugfreeinfo.org/state/cart.php. Orders can be faxed to (866) 499-8846. Materials on HIV/AIDS, STDs and hepatitis can also be ordered at www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Products.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=Products.

Comments on the inclusion of occupation information in electronic health records

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is asking for comments on how patient occupation information should be included in electronic health records (EHRs). NIOSH is specifically seeking feedback from health care providers, occupational health care providers, and developers and vendors of EHR/software. You can access the complete request for public comment at www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/06/28/2012-15896/request-for-information-collection-and-use-of-patient-work-information-in-the-clinical-setting#p-3. Comments must be received by August 27, 2012.

IDPH staff changes

We want to take a moment to recognize Pam Deichmann for nearly 14 years of service to the Iowa Department of Public Health. Most recently, Pam was bureau chief of the IDPH Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology. Among her accomplishments were the writing and receipt of many grants to promote infectious disease prevention and control in Iowa. Thank you for your service, Pam. Gerd Clabaugh, Deputy Director of IDPH, can be reached regarding CADE administrative issues at gerd.clabaugh@idph.iowa.gov.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a happy and healthy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736